

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims of the application were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited Van Den Hoven, Parulski, and Ishioka references. By this response, however, Applicant has amended independent Claim 13 in a manner which is believed to provide clear patentable distinctions over the cited references.

Specifically, Claim 13 has been amended so that the claim now requires that an image processing apparatus of the present invention is arranged to include a reproducing unit to reproduce a moving image for a predetermined reproduction time, wherein that reproduction of the moving image is stopped, when the predetermined reproduction time is passed, unless a first button is pressed before the predetermined reproduction time is passed. If the first button is so-pressed, the reproduction is carried on past the predetermined reproduction time, and continues for the remainder of the moving picture image. If the reproduction reaches the end of the moving image, then a next still image or moving image is reproduced. However, if a second button is pressed, after the first button is pressed, then the reproduction of the remaining part is terminated, and reproduction of a next still image or next moving image is reproduced. According to these features of the present invention as required in amended Claim 13, a user can select reproduction of the whole of a moving image by only depressing the first button during slide show reproduction, and can stop the slide show reproduction by depressing a second button even after the user selects the reproduction of the entire moving image by depressing the first button. Therefore, the user is able to obtain improved operation of slide show reproduction.

The above-described features of the present invention are not suggested by the cited references. In fact, as acknowledged in the Office Action, “the combination of Van Den Hoven and Parulski does not explicitly teach that said determining unit determines whether a second button is pressed during the reproduction of the remaining part of the moving image, and wherein said reproducing unit terminates the reproduction of the remaining part of the moving image and then starts reproduction of a next still image or moving image, if said determining unit determines that the second button is pressed during the reproduction of the remaining part of the moving image.” However, it should be noted further that the Van Den Hoven reference discloses in Fig.1 to reproduce sequentially representative images at a predetermined rate, and thus this reproduction operation is distinguishable from the reproducing unit of the present invention, which is arranged to reproduce a part of a moving image for a predetermined reproduction time so that reproduction of the part of the moving image is stopped when the predetermined reproduction time is passed, required in amended Claim 13. Van Der Hoven, therefore, does not disclose or suggest the reproducing unit of the present invention, which functions as recited in the amended Claim 13. Parulski discloses a reproduction mode in which index images are displayed to be selected and a moving image corresponding to the selected image index is reproduced. In addition, Parulski discloses to combine “several motion video image segments” (e.g., [0044] and [0059]) and reproduce the combined video image segments “one immediately after the other” (e.g., [10044]). This reference therefore also does not disclose or suggest the reproducing unit of the present invention, which is arranged to reproduce a part of a moving image for a predetermined reproduction time so that reproduction of the part of the moving image is stopped when the predetermined reproduction time is passed, as recited in the amended

Claim 13. Van Den Hover, therefore, does not disclose or suggest the reproducing unit of the present invention, which functions as recited in the amended Claim 13. The Parulski reference discloses a reproduction mode in which index images are displayed to be selected and moving image corresponding to the selected index image is reproduced. In addition, Parulski discloses to combine "several motion video segments" (e.g., [0044] and [0059]) and reproduce the combined video image segments "one immediately after the other" (e.g., [0044]). This reference therefore also does not disclose or suggest the reproducing unit of the present invention, which is arranged to reproduce a part of a moving image for a predetermined reproduction time so that reproduction of the part of the moving image is stopped when the predetermined reproduction time is passed, as required in amended Claim 13. As for the cited Ishioka reference, Ishioka discloses, in Fig. 15, moving image reproduction buttons AM to be used to review a moving image received from a moving image distribution system. The received moving image is constructed with blocks as shown in Fig. 11. Those buttons include a "NEXT" button MA-5, as mentioned in the Office Action, and if this button is depressed, reproduction of the current block is stopped and reproduction of the next block is started. However, the reference of Ishioka does not disclose or suggest the reproducing unit of the present invention, which is arranged to reproduce a part of a moving image from a storage medium for a predetermined reproduction time so that reproduction of the part of the moving image is stopped when the predetermined reproduction time is passed. None of the references of Van Den Hoven, Parulski and Ishioka, therefore, disclose the reproducing unit of the present invention, nor do they disclose the specific function of the reproducing unit, attained in accordance with operation of first and second buttons as recited in the amended Claim 13.

In view of the foregoing, the cited references of Van Den Hoven, Parulski and Ishioka, when taken alone or in combination, do not suggest the present invention as now set forth in amended independent claim 13. Accordingly, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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